

Old Town Neighborhood Watch

Otnw.tripod.com or
see us on Facebook

April/May/June 2011



Old Town Neighborhood Watch

The Old Town Voice

OTNW Meetings

We meet the last
Wednesday of every
month from 7 to 8 PM
at the Allentown
Promise Neighborhood
Office, 250 N. 8th
Street (next to Nixie's
Nail Salon).

April Meeting:
4/27/2011 @ 7 PM

May Meeting:
5/25/2011 @ 7 PM

June Meeting:
6/29/2011 @ 7 PM



About OTNW:

We are the crime watch
group for the Old Allen-
town Historic District, the
area from Hall Street to
12th, Liberty to Linden
Streets.

We speak English at our
meetings, but want all of
our diverse neighbors to
attend. We will help you
get heard!

Printed courtesy of the City of Allentown on recycled paper.

Gas Explosion Aftermath by Anne Crothers

Some felt their house shake, some heard the blast, some didn't know a thing about it. In February, the next neighborhood over suffered a devastating loss as neighbors died, lost loved ones, lost their homes, cars and dreams. It was a shock, a larger than life disaster, something too horrible to be believed. On my block, in the decade I've been here, there has been a fire, a sink-hole and more. When it happens, we pull together and get through.

And, in this case, the city and the neighbors have tried to be there for the explosion victims. There have been

fundraisers, benefits, donations and more. I've been proud to see many people, including local businesses, step up and reach out.

There have been some cold hearts. A story circulated on Facebook about RCN demanding money for the melted cable boxes in-

stead of having compassion for people who have lost everything.

Lots of help is likely still needed and OTNW would love to be involved any way we can. This was five blocks from my house. Those folks were and are my neighbors, and I care.



11th Street Festival Time! By Anne Crothers

The 11th Street Festival will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2011 from 10-4 in the 200 block of 11th Street, between Turner and Chew Streets. All are welcome, and the admission is free.

As always, we will have our kid's activity tent, food

vendors, music and lots of other neighbors, churches, orgs and businesses coming to set up a tent. You can set up a tent or table too, for free and sell flea market items or paint nails, or whatever you would like.

As always, we will need

help with set up, breakdown and at a number of tents and tables. Please get involved! We need you!

Planning meetings will be heating up at OTNW meetings and in between. Check Facebook also for more updates. See you there!

Allentown Comic Con From www.allentowncomiccon.com



Love Comics? Head to Comic Con!

The Great Allentown Comic Convention 2011

Upcoming Show Info:

April 16th, 2011
Hours 10am - 5pm
Merchants Square Mall
1901 S. 12th Street
Allentown, PA 18103

We are working hard this year to bring you even more amazing artists, guests and dealers from throughout the East Coast. The Great Allentown Comic Con remains committed to a family

-friendly event filled with comic books, toys, cards and collectible memorabilia and more!

Special guests include Gary Petras, Adam Wilson, Darrell "The Nightray" Goza, Doug Baron, Glenn Whitmore, Michael Perla, Dave Mancos, Jim Kyle and Gus Fink.

Special Contest:

The Great Allentown Comic Con! is holding a Special Contest for atten-

dees to our upcoming April 16th 2011 show! One lucky winner will go home with a limited Susan Storm figurine!

Contest is open to all attendees of the Great Allentown Comic Con! who register on our website prior to April 14th 2011.

You **MUST** register to become eligible for this FREE contest.

Cancelled Meetings By Anne Crothers

"Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our dreams."

George Eliot

We had a bad run this winter. We cancelled the January meeting due to a bad snow storm and then the February meeting right after it. That's not good, because momentum helps build a group and our group has been in trouble for several years.

Part of the trouble is caused by the moves we have had to make. Some people who feel comfortable in one space don't want to make a transition to a new space. Some people don't get the word about the change and just get lost. It's

been a journey of ups and downs.

Welcome to the spring, where we hope meeting will go forward as planned and where we will be where we say we will!

Welcome back!

Gas Meter Controversy by Anne Crothers



Gas Meter Disaster?

You may have heard about the proposed gas meter changes or seen UGI in your block. You may have also seen poster from CAMP. CAMP stands for Citizens for Appropriate Meter Placement and was founded by neighbor Edward Morrison who was

horrified by the proposed changes in gas meters.

UGI says the changes are for safety, CAMP says they are for the UGI worker convenience and undermine the beautification efforts of OAPA and ordinary residents.

This has been reported in the paper and blogged about extensively. The verdict is not yet in. It's interesting what brings people together and what motivates different neighbors.

For now, I have a CAMP poster in my window.

The Art Rescuer from the Allentown Events Calendar

Art Rescuer, Robert K. Wittman Lecture

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Doors open 5:30 PM, Lecture at 6:30 PM

Scottish Rite Cathedral,
Allentown, PA

Museum members \$20, non-members \$30. Tickets on sale starting 1/4/11 by calling 610-432-4333, ext. 129.

Robert Wittman has traveled the world investigating

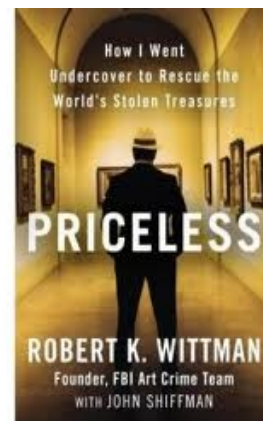
and solving art and antiques crimes. He retired from the FBI in 2008 where he created the FBI's National Art Crime Team and worked for 20 years as the FBI's investigative expert in art.

He was responsible for recovering over \$225 million in stolen art and cultural property around the world. This includes a Rembrandt, a Norman Rockwell, and one of the original copies of the Bill of Rights.

Mr. Wittman is the author of the New York times Best Seller *Priceless—How I went Undercover to rescue the World's Stolen Treasures* which will be available for purchase at the lecture.

A book signing will follow the lecture.

Bob Wittman continues to use his expertise as a security consultant for the private sector.



NY Times Bestseller

Parking News By Tamara Weller

I want to remind all of our neighborhood groups of the many parking opportunities we have available in many neighborhoods.

Currently, we can accept new parkers in the Oak Street lot, the 200 Railroad lot, the 400 Ridge Ave lot, and the 700 Railroad lot.

Other opportunities exist elsewhere, as well, and if you have any questions, contact Marge Hopkins at 610 841 8821 or via email.

In some lots, Marge can provide a discount to neighbors who want to utilize the space after 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and on weekends!

Be sure to call for details.

Tamara Weller
Executive Director
Allentown Parking
Authority
allentownparking.com
610. 841.8826

**"To know and to act are one and the same."
Samurai Maxim**

Easter Bunny from an article by Lauren Effron

How did a rabbit get connected to the Easter tradition?

The first Easter bunny legends were documented in the 1500s. By 1680, the first story about a rabbit laying eggs and hiding them in a garden was published.

These legends were brought to the United States in the 1700s when German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania Dutch country (including Allentown), according to the University of Florida's Center for Children.

The tradition of making

nests for the rabbit to lay its eggs soon followed. Eventually, nests became decorated baskets and colorful eggs were swapped for candy, treats and other small gifts.

Enjoy a bunny or two!



Happy Easter!

Emergencies Call 911

Abandoned Vehicles	610-437-7751
Animal Control	610-437-7535
Building Inspections	610-437-7592
Code Enforcement	610-437-7661
Child Abuse	610-437-7798
City Council	610-437-7556
Disruptive Tenant	610-437-7616
Fire Code Violations	610-437-7758
Garbage Complaints	610-437-8729
Graffiti	610-437-8729
Historic Architectural Review Board	610-437-7613
Housing Inspections	610-437-7697
Juvenile Bureau	610-437-7741
Liquor Control Enforcement	717-783-8250
Mayor Ed Pawlowski	610-437-7546
Police Non-emergency	610-437-7751

Neighbor Disputes	610-437-7773
Noise Complaints	610-437-7679
OTNW	610-432-9537
Parking Authority	610-437-3366
Police Non-emergency	610-437-7751
Police desk	610-437-7753
Police Quality of Life patrol	610-437-7611
Recycling	610-437-8729
Snow Removal (Sidewalks)	610-437-7596
Street Cleaning	610-437-7636
SWEEP Program	610-437-8729
Traffic Signs & Signals	610-437-7735
Vacant Property Issues	610-437-7604
Vice/Narcotics	610-437-7726
Weeds/Grass Overgrowth	610-437-7604
Zoning	610-437-7630

Youth Success Zone No Longer! *From Alicia Ruiz Orbin*

The new logo!

First of all, I am pleased to inform you that effective January 20, the name of the Allentown Youth Success Zone has been changed to **Allentown Promise Neighborhood (APN)**. The name change was endorsed by the Founders Team and approved by United Way.

This name clearly identifies our work and conveys the nature of our commitment to the community; it is sufficiently universal so that it

appeals to our multiple constituencies and identifies us with the growing national movement of place-based community change.

Description:

The Allentown Promise Neighborhood serves children and families who live in the nine block area between Liberty and Turner and 10th and N. Hall Streets in Center City Allentown.

We are not a program but rather, a coordinated web of effective services

and supports to bring the necessary resources so that children graduate from high school ready for college or for a good job. It is a powerful collaboration of residents and an array of community organizations, doing “whatever it takes” to ensure that all kids and families succeed.

OTNW congratulates the APN and hopes to find ways to partner together in the future.